

ANNUAL SYNAR REPORT

42 U.S.C. 300x-26

OMB № 0930-0222

FFY 2010

State: AK

FINAL Version 1.0



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Center for Substance Abuse Prevention
www.samhsa.gov

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	i
FFY 2010: Funding Agreements/Certifications.....	1
Section I: FFY 2009 (Compliance Progress).....	2
Section II: FFY 2010 (Intended Use).....	8
Appendix A: Forms 1–5.....	9
Appendices B & C: Forms.....	16
Appendix B: Synar Survey Sampling Methodology	17
Appendix C: Synar Survey Inspection Protocol	19
Appendix D: List Sampling Frame Coverage Study	21

INTRODUCTION

The Annual Synar Report (ASR) format provides the means for States to comply with the reporting provisions of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300x-26) and the Tobacco Regulation for the SAPT Block Grant (45 C.F.R. 96.130 (e)).

Public reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average 15 hours for Section I and 3 hours for Section II, including the time for reviewing instructions, completing and reviewing the collection of information, searching existing data sources, and gathering and maintaining the data needed. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to SAMHSA Reports Clearance Officer; Paperwork Reduction Project; 1 Choke Cherry Road, 7th Floor Rockville, Maryland 20857.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control number for this project is 0930-0222 with an expiration date of 10-31-2010.

How the Synar report helps the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention

In accordance with the tobacco regulations, States are required to provide detailed information on progress made in enforcing youth tobacco access laws (FFY 2009 Compliance Progress) and future plans to ensure compliance with the Synar requirements to reduce youth tobacco access rates (FFY 2010 Intended Use Plan). These data are required by 42 U.S.C. 300x-26 and will be used by the Secretary to evaluate State compliance with the statute. Part of the mission of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) is to assist States¹ by supporting Synar activities and providing technical assistance helpful in determining the type of enforcement measures and control strategies that are most effective. This information is helpful to CSAP in improving technical assistance resources and expertise on enforcement efforts and tobacco control program support activities, including State Synar Program support services, through an enhanced technical assistance program involving conferences and workshops, development of training materials and guidance documents, and on-site technical assistance consultation.

How the Synar report can help States

The information gathered for the Synar report can help States describe and analyze sub-State needs for program enhancements. These data can also be used to report to the State legislature and other State and local organizations on progress made to date in enforcing youth tobacco access laws when aggregated statistical data from State Synar reports can demonstrate to the Secretary the national progress in reducing youth tobacco access problems. This information will also provide Congress with a better understanding of State progress in implementing Synar, including State difficulties and successes in enforcing retailer compliance with youth tobacco access laws.

¹The term State is used to refer to all the States and territories required to comply with Synar as part of the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant Program requirements (42 U.S.C. 300x-64 and 45 C.F.R. 96.121).

Getting assistance in completing the Synar report

If you have questions about programmatic issues, you may call CSAP's Division of State Programs at (240) 276-2413 and ask for your respective State Project Officer, or contact your State Project Officer directly by telephone or e-mail using the directory provided in the FY 2010 Uniform Application, Appendix A. If you have questions about fiscal or grants management issues, you may call the Grants Management Officer, Office of Program Services, Division of Grants Management, at (240) 276-1422.

Where and when to submit the Synar report

The Annual Synar Report (ASR) must be received by SAMHSA no later than December 31, 2009. The ASR must be submitted in the **approved OMB report format**. Use of the approved format will avoid delays in the review and approval process. The chief executive officer (or an authorized designee) of the applicant organization must sign page 1 of the ASR certifying that the State has complied with all reporting requirements.

The State must upload one copy of the ASR using the online WebBGAS (Block Grant Application System). In addition, the following items must be uploaded to WebBGAS:

- FFY 2010 Synar Survey Results: States that use the Synar Survey Estimation System (SSES) must upload one copy of SSES Tables 1-5 (in Excel) to WebBGAS. States that do not use SSES must upload one copy of ASR Forms 1, 4 and 5, and Forms 2 and 3, if applicable, (in Excel) to WebBGAS.
- Synar Inspection Form: States must upload one blank copy of the inspection form used to record the result of each Synar inspection.
- Synar Inspection Protocol: States must upload a copy of the protocol used to train inspection teams on conducting and reporting the results of the Synar inspections.

Each State SSA Director has been e-mailed a login ID and password to log onto the Synar section of the WebBGAS site.

Additionally, the State must submit one signed original of the report (including the signed Funding Agreements/Certifications), as well as one additional copy of the signed Funding Agreements/Certifications, to the Grants Management Officer at the address below:

Ms. Barbara Orlando
Grants Management Officer
Office of Program Services
Division of Grants Management
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Regular Mail:

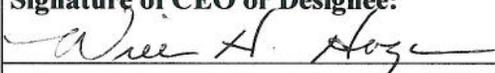
1 Choke Cherry Road, Rm.7-1091
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Overnight Mail:

1 Choke Cherry Road, Rm.7-1091
Rockville, Maryland 20850

FFY 2010: FUNDING AGREEMENTS/CERTIFICATIONS

The following form must be signed by the Chief Executive Officer or an authorized designee and submitted with this application. Documentation authorizing a designee must be attached to the application.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES ACT AND SYNAR AMMENDMENT
42 U.S.C. 300x-26 requires each State to submit an annual report of its progress in meeting the requirements of the Synar Amendment and its implementing regulation (45 C.F.R. 96.130) to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. By signing below, the chief executive officer (or an authorized designee) of the applicant organization certifies that the State has complied with these reporting requirements and the certifications as set forth below.
SYNAR SURVEY SAMPLING METHODOLOGY
The State certifies that the Synar survey sampling methodology on file with the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention and submitted with the Annual Synar Report for FFY 2010 is up-to-date and approved by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.
SYNAR SURVEY INSPECTION PROTOCOL
The State certifies that the Synar Survey Inspection Protocol on file with the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention and submitted with the Annual Synar Report for FFY 2010 is up-to-date and approved by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.
State: Alaska
Name of Chief Executive Officer or Designee: William H. Hogan
Signature of CEO or Designee: 
Title: Commissioner, Dept. of Health & Social Services Date Signed: 12/24/09
If signed by a designee, a copy of the designation must be attached.

SECTION I: FFY 2009 (Compliance Progress)

YOUTH ACCESS LAWS, ACTIVITIES, AND ENFORCEMENT

42 U.S.C. 300x-26 requires the States to report information regarding the sale/distribution of tobacco products to individuals under age 18.

1. Please indicate any changes or additions to the State tobacco statute(s) relating to youth access since the last reporting year. If any changes were made to the State law(s) since the last reporting year, please attach a photocopy of the law to the hard copy of the ASR and also upload a copy of the State law to WebBGAS. (see 42 U.S.C. 300x-26).

a. Has there been a change in the *minimum sale age* for tobacco products?

Yes No

If Yes, current minimum age: 19 20 21

b. Have there been any changes in State law that impact the State's *protocol for conducting Synar inspections*? Yes No

If Yes, indicate change. (Check all that apply.)

Changed to require that law enforcement conduct inspections of tobacco outlets

Changed to make it illegal for youth to possess, purchase or receive tobacco

Changed to require ID to purchase tobacco

Other change(s) *(Please describe.)* _____

c. Have there been any changes in the law concerning *vending machines*?

Yes No

If Yes, indicate change. (Check all that apply.)

Total ban enacted

Banned from location(s) accessible to youth

Locking device or supervision required

Other change(s) *(Please describe.)* _____

d. Have there been any changes in State law that impact the following?

Licensing of tobacco vendors Yes No

Penalties for sales to minors Yes No

2. Describe how the Annual Synar Report (see 45 C.F.R. 96.130(e)) and the State Plan (see 42 U.S.C. 300x-51) were made public within the State prior to submission of the ASR. (Check all that apply.)

Placed on file for public review

Posted on a State agency Web site *(Please provide exact Web address.)* _____

- Notice published in a newspaper or newsletter
 - Public hearing
 - Announced in a news release, a press conference, or discussed in a media interview
 - Distributed for review as part of the SAPT Block Grant application process
 - Distributed through the public library system
 - Published in an annual register
 - Other change(s) *(Please describe.) distributed at Tobacco Control Alliance events; upon receiving SAMHSA approval of the FFY09 ASR, state will post report on website at <http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dbh/prevention/default.htm>*
-

3. Identify the following agency or agencies *(see 42 U.S.C. 300x-26 and 45 C.F.R. 96.130).*

a. The State agency(ies) designated by the Governor for oversight of the Synar requirements:

Department of Law, Office of the Attorney General

Has this changed since last year's Annual Synar Report? Yes No

b. The State agency(ies) responsible for conducting random, unannounced Synar inspections:

Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Behavioral Health

Has this changed since last year's Annual Synar Report? Yes No

c. The State agency(ies) responsible for enforcing youth tobacco access law(s):

Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Behavioral Health

Has this changed since last year's Annual Synar Report? Yes No

4. Identify the State agency(ies) responsible for tobacco prevention activities.

Department of Health & Social Services, Division of Public Health and Division of Behavioral Health. Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

Has the responsible agency changed since last year's Annual Synar Report?

Yes No

a. Describe the coordination and collaboration that occur between the agency responsible for tobacco prevention and the agency responsible for oversight of the Synar requirements. (Check all that apply.) The two agencies

Are the same

Have a formal written memorandum of agreement

Have an informal partnership

Conduct joint planning activities

Combine resources

Have other collaborative arrangement(s) *(Please describe.)* _____

5. Please answer the following questions regarding the State's activities to enforce the youth access to tobacco law(s) in FFY 2009 (see 42 U.S.C. 300x-26 and 45 C.F.R. 96.130(e)).

a. Which one of the following describes the enforcement of youth access to tobacco laws carried out in your State? (Check one category only.)

- Enforcement is conducted exclusively by local law enforcement agencies.
- Enforcement is conducted exclusively by State agency(ies).
- Enforcement is conducted by both local and State agencies.

b. The following items concern penalties imposed for violations of youth access to tobacco laws by LOCAL AND/OR STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. Please fill in the number requested. If State law does not allow for an item, please mark "NA" (not applicable). If a response for an item is unknown, please mark "UNK." The chart must be filled in completely.

PENALTY	OWNERS	CLERKS	TOTAL
Number of citations issued	4	50	54
Number of fines assessed	61	45	106
Number of permits/licenses suspended	61		61
Number of permits/licenses revoked	0		0
Other (Please describe.)	0	0	0

c. What additional activities are conducted in your State to support enforcement and compliance with State tobacco access law(s)? (Check all that apply.)

- Merchant education and/or training
- Incentives for merchants who are in compliance (e.g., reward and reminder)
- Community education regarding youth access laws
- Media use to publicize compliance inspection results
- Community mobilization to increase support for retailer compliance with youth access laws
- Other activities (Please list.) _____

Briefly describe all checked activities:

Activities to increase knowledge about youth access to tobacco, enforcement and compliance of retailers includes a multi-strategy approach. Materials are available for all Alaska retailers related to the state's laws related to legal age for tobacco purchase/use, retailer responsibility to enforce youth access laws and suggestions to assist retailers in reducing violations of these laws. DBH staff are available upon request to provide retailer/clerk training and send materials to retailers upon request and periodically to all Alaska retailers. In addition, DBH uses the media to highlight compliance with the laws, the annual retail violation rates and issues related to health issues for youth who choose to use tobacco. The Alaska Tobacco

Control Alliance assist Behavioral Health in mobilizing community education, outreach, and support related to youth tobacco issues.

- d. **Are citations or warnings issued to retailers or clerks who sell tobacco to minors for inspections that are part of the Synar survey?** Yes No

If "Yes" to 5d, please describe the State's procedure for minimizing risk of bias to the survey results from retailers alerting each other to the presence of the survey teams:

To minimize the risk of survey bias, the enforcement team splits into groups and conducts simultaneous inspections. Throughout the inspection period, team members maintain contact via cell phones. In the event that one team issues a citation, all other teams are immediately notified. Enforcement teams will conduct one or two more inspections and then terminate inspections for the day. During these post-citation inspections, enforcement teams want especially to observe whether store personnel are talking among themselves of the tobacco citations just issued that day. If store personnel are aware of such citations, then stores most likely are passing this information among themselves. In these cases, the enforcement team will choose to reschedule investigations for a future date.

SYNAR SURVEY METHODS AND RESULTS

The following questions pertain to the survey methodology and results of the Synar survey used by the State to meet the requirements of the Synar Regulation in FFY 2009 (see 42 U.S.C. 300x-26 and 45 C.F.R. 96.130).

6. **Has the sampling methodology changed from the previous year?** Yes No

The State is required to have an approved up-to-date description of the Synar sampling methodology on file with CSAP. Please submit a copy of your Synar Survey Sampling Methodology (Appendix B). If the sampling methodology changed from the previous reporting year, these changes must be reflected in the methodology submitted.

7. **Please answer the following questions regarding the State's annual random, unannounced inspections of tobacco outlets** (see 45 C.F.R. 96.130(d)(2)).

- a. **Did the State use the optional Synar Survey Estimation System (SSES) to analyze the Synar survey data?** Yes No

If Yes, attach SSES summary tables 1, 2, 3, and 4 to the hard copy of the ASR and upload a copy of SSES tables 1-5 (in Excel) to WebBGAS. Then go to Question 8. If No, continue to Question 7b.

- b. **Report the weighted and unweighted Retailer Violation Rate (RVR) estimates, and the standard error.**

Unweighted RVR _____

Weighted RVR _____

Standard error (s.e.) of the (weighted) RVR _____

Fill in the blanks to calculate the right limit of the right-sided 95% confidence

interval.

$$\frac{\text{RVR Estimate}}{\text{plus}} + \frac{(1.645 \times \text{Standard Error})}{(1.645 \text{ times})} = \text{Right Limit}$$

c. **Fill out Form 1 in Appendix A (Forms).** *(Required regardless of the sample design.)*

d. **How were the (weighted) RVR estimate and its standard error obtained?** *(Check the one that applies.)*

Form 2 (Optional) in Appendix A (Forms) *(Attach completed Form 2.)*

Other *(Please specify. Provide formulae and calculations or attach and explain the program code and output with description of all variable names.)*

e. **If stratification was used, did any strata in the sample contain only one outlet or cluster this year?** Yes No No stratification

If Yes, explain how this situation was dealt with in variance estimation.

f. **Was a cluster sample design used?** Yes No

If Yes, fill out and attach Form 3 in Appendix A (Forms 1–5), and answer the following question.

If No, go to Question 7g.

Were any certainty primary sampling units selected this year? Yes No

If Yes, explain how the certainty clusters were dealt with in variance estimation.

g. **Report the following outlet sample sizes for the Synar survey.**

	Sample Size
Effective sample size (sample size needed to meet the SAMHSA precision requirement assuming simple random sampling)	
Target sample size (the product of the effective sample size and the design effect)	
Original sample size (inflated sample size of the target sample to counter the sample attrition due to ineligibility and non-completion)	
Eligible sample size (number of outlets found to be eligible in the sample)	
Final sample size (number of eligible outlets in the sample for which an inspection was completed)	

h. **Fill out Form 4 in Appendix A (Forms 1–5).**

8. **Did the State’s Synar survey use a list frame?** Yes No

If Yes, answer the following questions about its coverage.

a. The calendar year of the latest frame coverage study: 2008

b. Percent coverage from the latest frame coverage study: 98%

c. Was a new study conducted in this reporting period? Yes No

If Yes, please complete Appendix D (List Sampling Frame Coverage Study) and submit it with the Annual Synar Report.

d. The calendar year of the next coverage study planned: 2011

9. Has the Synar survey inspection protocol changed from the previous year?

Yes No

The State is required to have an approved up-to-date description of the Synar inspection protocol on file with CSAP. Please submit a copy of your Synar Survey Inspection Protocol (Appendix C). If the inspection protocol changed from the previous year, these changes must be reflected in the protocol submitted.

a. Provide the inspection period: From 6/1/09 To 9/30/09
MM/DD/YY MM/DD/YY

b. Provide the number of youth inspectors used in the current inspection year:

13

NOTE: If the State uses SSES, please ensure that the number reported in 9b matches that reported in SSES Table 4, or explain any difference.

Alaska utilized 13 individual youth inspectors for the FFY10 Synar investigations. However, one of the inspectors – inspector ID 5837 – had a birthday during the inspection period. For the purposes of this report, the IDs associated with this inspector include alpha characters to distinguish age differences (example: 5837a and 5837b). As such, 14 distinct youth inspector IDs are found in the data table.

c. Fill out and attach Form 5 in Appendix A (Forms 1–5). (Not required if the State used the Synar Survey Estimation System (SSES) to analyze the Synar survey data.)

SECTION II: FFY 2010 (Intended Use):

Public law 42 U.S.C. 300x-26 of the Public Health Service Act and 45 C.F.R. 96.130 (e) (4, 5) require that the States provide information on future plans to ensure compliance with the Synar requirements to reduce youth tobacco access.

1. In the upcoming year, does the State anticipate any changes in the:

Synar sampling methodology Yes No

Synar inspection protocol Yes No

If changes are made in either the Synar sampling methodology or the Synar inspection protocol, the State is required to obtain approval from CSAP prior to implementation of the change and file an updated Synar Survey Sampling Methodology (Appendix B) or an updated Synar Survey Inspection Protocol (Appendix C), as appropriate.

2. Please describe the State's plans to maintain and/or reduce the target rate for Synar inspections to be completed in FFY 2010. Include a brief description of plans for law enforcement efforts to enforce youth tobacco access laws, activities that support law enforcement efforts to enforce youth tobacco access laws, and any anticipated changes in youth tobacco access legislation or regulation in the State.

Alaska anticipates the following statewide tobacco enforcement activities for FFY10:

- Work with our partners in the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DOCCED), to process in a more timely manner suspensions for vendors convicted of selling tobacco to youths. Suspensions of tobacco endorsements bar vendors from selling tobacco to the public for specified periods of time.
- Continue efforts to educate vendors and communities about laws related to the sale of tobacco products to underage youth;
- Explore positive rewards for vendors that do not sell tobacco to youths during investigations (example: mailing thank-you letters to vendors or publishing in local papers the names of vendors who do not sell tobacco to youths);
- Mail letters to all tobacco vendors at least once yearly to remind them of tobacco access laws and to inform them that investigators may visit their premises to conduct undercover tobacco investigations;
- Evaluate the policy of using 18 year-olds as under-age inspectors (Alaska bars the sale of tobacco products to individuals under 19 years of age); and
- Increase non-Synar tobacco enforcement and premise inspection efforts in communities with high RVR rates in the prior year, including: the Matanuska-Susitna Borough area (Wasilla, Palmer, Big Lake and Trapper Creek), Southeast Alaska (Ketchikan, Klawock and Craig) Nome, and Bethel.

The State of Alaska anticipates no changes to tobacco-related regulations in the FFY 2010.

3. Describe any challenges the State faces in complying with the Synar regulation. (Check all that apply.)

- Limited resources for law enforcement of youth access laws
- Limited resources for activities to support enforcement and compliance with youth tobacco access laws
- Limitations in the State youth tobacco access laws
- Limited public support for enforcement of youth tobacco access laws
- Limitations on completeness/accuracy of list of tobacco outlets
- Limited expertise in survey methodology
- Laws/regulations limiting the use of minors in tobacco inspections
- Difficulties recruiting youth inspectors
- Geographic, demographic, and logistical considerations in conducting inspections
- Cultural factors (e.g., language barriers, young people purchasing for their elders)
- Issues regarding sources of tobacco under tribal jurisdiction
- Other challenges (*Please list.*) seasonal activity

Briefly describe all checked challenges and propose a plan for each, or indicate the State's need for TA related to each relevant challenge.

Alaska's transportation challenges continue to consume much of the time and funding for the enforcement program. The cultural factors vary widely from town to town and often require special considerations for the enforcement teams. Seasonal activity and high turnover for store clerks in Alaska create an unusually chaotic retail environment. Ongoing training and education for the vendor community is essential for restricting the availability of tobacco products to minors.

APPENDIX A: Forms 1–5

SSES Table 1 (Synar Survey Estimates and Sample Sizes)

CSAP-SYNAR REPORT

State	Alaska
Federal Fiscal Year (FFY)	2010
Date	10/9/2009 9:40
Data	SSES Results 10-09-2009.xls
Analysis Option	Stratified SRS with FPC

Estimates

Unweighted Retailer Violation Rate	7.1%
Weighted Retailer Violation Rate	9.0%
Standard Error	1.6%
Is SAMHSA Precision Requirement met?	YES
Right-sided 95% Confidence Interval	[0.0%, 11.7%]
Two-sided 95% Confidence Interval	[5.8%, 12.2%]
Design Effect	2.0
Accuracy Rate (unweighted)	87.3%
Accuracy Rate (weighted)	87.6%
Completion Rate (unweighted)	55.0%

Sample Size for Current Year

Effective Sample Size	372
Target (Minimum) Sample Size	744
Original Sample Size	914
Eligible Sample Size	798
Final Sample Size	439
Overall Sampling Rate	58.4%

SSES Table 2 (Synar Survey Results by Stratum and by OTC/VM)

STATE: Alaska

FFY: 2010

Samp. Stratum	Var. Stratum	Outlet Frame Size	Estimated Outlet Population Size	Number of PSU Clusters Created	Number of PSU Clusters in Sample	Outlet Sample Size	Number of Eligible Outlets in Sample	Number of Sample Outlets Inspected	Number of Sample Outlets in Violation	Retailer Violation Rate(%)	Standard Error(%)
All Outlets											
1	1	154	128	N/A	N/A	154	128	124	7	5.6%	
2	2	59	46	N/A	N/A	59	46	41	1	2.4%	
3	3	63	53	N/A	N/A	63	53	49	2	4.1%	
4	4	420	403	N/A	N/A	384	368	75	9	12.0%	
5	5	134	100	N/A	N/A	134	100	82	7	8.5%	
6	6	120	103	N/A	N/A	120	103	68	5	7.4%	
Total		950	833			914	798	439	31	9.0%	1.6%
Over the Counter Outlets											
1	1	154	128	N/A	N/A	154	128	124	7	5.6%	
2	2	59	46	N/A	N/A	59	46	41	1	2.4%	
3	3	63	53	N/A	N/A	63	53	49	2	4.1%	
4	4	420	403	N/A	N/A	384	368	75	9	12.0%	
5	5	134	100	N/A	N/A	134	100	82	7	8.5%	
6	6	120	103	N/A	N/A	120	103	68	5	7.4%	
Total		950	833			914	798	439	31	9.0%	1.6%
Vending Machines											
1	1	0	0	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
2	2	0	0	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
3	3	0	0	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
4	4	0	0	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
5	5	0	0	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
6	6	0	0	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
Total		0	0			0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%

SSES Table 3 (Synar Survey Sample Tally Summary)

STATE: Alaska
FFY: 2010

Disposition Code	Description	Count	Subtotal
EC	Eligible and inspection complete outlet	439	
Total (Eligible Completes)			439
N1	In operation but closed at time of visit	15	
N2	Unsafe to access	2	
N3	Presence of police	0	
N4	Youth inspector knows salesperson	0	
N5	Moved to new location but not inspected	0	
N6	Drive thru only/youth inspector has no drivers license	0	
N7	Tobacco out of stock	5	
N8	Run out of time	0	
N9	Other noncompletion (see below)	337	
Total (Eligible Noncompletes)			359
I1	Out of Business	27	
I2	Does not sell tobacco products	15	
I3	Inaccessible by youth	46	
I4	Private club or private residence	0	
I5	Temporary closure	0	
I6	Can't be located	4	
I7	Wholesale only/Carton sale only	1	
I8	Vending machine broken	0	
I9	Duplicate	23	
I10	Other ineligibility	0	
Total (Ineligibles)			116
Grand Total			914

Give reasons and counts for other noncompletion:

Reason	Count
One or more of the following factors contributed to the eligible noncomplete inspections: high risk of compromised inspector anonymity; commercial overnight lodging was not available in the vendor community; safety issues; vendor access restricted to employees only (e.g. industrial zones and man camps); travel mode was not available at time of investigation (e.g. due to weather conditions, temporary road closures, etc.); high travel costs to vendor community.	359

SSES Table 4 (Synar Survey Inspection Results by Youth Inspector Characteristics)

STATE: Alaska
FFY: 2010

Frequency Distribution

Gender	Age	Number of Inspectors	Attempted Buys	Successful Buys
Male	14	0	0	0
	15	4	90	10
	16	3	127	7
	17	0	0	0
	18	0	0	0
	Subtotal		7	217
Female	14	0	0	0
	15	4	157	8
	16	2	17	3
	17	1	48	3
	18	0	0	0
	Subtotal		7	222
Other		0	0	0
Grand Total		14	439	31

Buy Rate in Percent by Age and Gender

Age	Male	Female	Total
14	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
15	11.1%	5.1%	7.3%
16	5.5%	17.6%	6.9%
17	0.0%	6.3%	6.3%
18	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other			0.0%
Total	7.8%	6.3%	7.1%

APPENDICES B & C: FORMS

Instructions

Appendix B (Sampling Design) and Appendix C (Inspection Protocol) are to reflect the State's CSAP-approved sampling design and inspection protocol. These appendices, therefore, should generally describe the design and protocol and are not to be modified with year-specific information. Please note that any changes to either appendix must receive CSAP's advance written approval. To facilitate the State's completion of this section, simply "cut and paste" the previously approved sampling design (Appendix B) and inspection protocol (Appendix C).

APPENDIX B: SYNAR SURVEY SAMPLING METHODOLOGY

State: Alaska
 FFY: 2010

1. What type of sampling frame is used?

- List frame (Go to Question 2.)
- Area frame (Go to Question 3.)
- List-assisted area frame (Go to Question 2.)

2. List all sources of the list frame. Indicate the type of source from the list below. Provide a brief description of the frame source. Explain how the lists are updated (method), including how new outlets are identified and added to the frame. In addition, explain how often the lists are updated (cycle). (After completing this question, go to Question 4.)

Use the corresponding number to indicate Type of Source in the table below.

- 1 – Statewide commercial business list
- 2 – Local commercial business list
- 3 – Statewide tobacco license/permit list
- 4 – Statewide retail license/permit list
- 5 – Statewide liquor license/permit list
- 6 – Other

Name of Frame Source	Type of Source	Description	Updating Method and Cycle
Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED), Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing	3	Tobacco vendor business license and endorsement list from the Dept. of Commerce, Community and Economic Development	See below.

Alaska utilizes a list of tobacco vendors generated annually by the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, & Economic Development (DCCED). Tobacco vendors are required to have a valid business license and tobacco endorsement (per AS 43.70.075. License Endorsement), both of which are issued by the DCCED. Tobacco vendors concurrently apply for and receive an endorsement for the sale of tobacco products. Both business license and endorsement are valid through December 31 of the year in which the license expires. During March of each year, the DCCED generates a list of tobacco vendor endorsements for which the business license and endorsement have an expiration date greater than or equal to December 31 of the prior year.

When applying for a tobacco endorsement, a vendor identifies up to two NAICS (North American Industry Classification System) codes that generally describe the type of commercial activity in which the vendor is engaged. Vendor endorsements with the following NAICS codes are identified as youth-inaccessible and are removed from the list frame:

NAICS Code	NAICS Description
424810	BEER AND ALE MERCHANT WHOLESALERS
424940	TOBACCO AND TOBACCO PRODUCT MERCHANT WHOLESALERS
445310	BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR STORES
452910	WAREHOUSE CLUBS AND SUPERCENTERS
453991	TOBACCO STORES
454210	VENDING MACHINE OPERATORS
722410	DRINKING PLACES (ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES)
813410	CIVIC AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS (Endorsements with this NAICS code that are private clubs with bars are identified as youth-inaccessible)

The following Alaska state statutes are used as a basis for determining youth-inaccessibility:

- AS 11.76.100. Selling or Giving Tobacco to a Minor.
- AS 11.76.106. Selling Tobacco Outside Controlled Access.
- AS 11.76.107. Failure to Supervise Cigarette Vending Machine.
- AS 04.16.049. Access of Persons Under the Age of 21 to Licensed Premises (Regulation of Sales and Distribution of Alcoholic Beverages).
- AS 04.16.060. Purchase By or Delivery to Persons Under the Age of 21 (Regulation of Sales and Distribution of Alcoholic Beverages).

SAMHSA/CSAP provided the following guidance regarding AS 04.16.049 (a). Access of Persons Under the Age of 21 to Licensed Premises as it pertains to identifying youth-inaccessible endorsements:

- Vendor endorsements that sell alcoholic beverages and also are identified as a full-service restaurant are included in the list frame (these endorsements are accessible by youth).
- Vendor endorsements that sell alcoholic beverages and are not identified as a full-service restaurant are removed from the list frame. These endorsements can be considered youth-inaccessible due to the statutory requirement that a person under 21 may enter the premises only if accompanied by a parent, guardian, or spouse who has attained the age of 21.

If a vendor endorsement has two NAICS codes, and one or both of the codes identifies the endorsement as youth-accessible, then the endorsement is included in the list frame.

Alaska also engages in additional efforts to improve the list frame accuracy, including:

- Removing tobacco endorsements from the list frame if they were identified in the prior year Synar investigation as:

Disposition Code	Disposition Description
I3	Inaccessible by Youth
I4	Private club or residence
I6	Unlocatable
I7	Whole sale only/carton sale only
I9	Duplicate (i.e., two distinct endorsement IDs referencing the same point of sale)

- Removing tobacco endorsements from the list frame if tobacco enforcement staff have knowledge within the prior 12 months that the endorsement would be disposed of (in a Synar investigation) with one of the five ineligible disposition codes identified above. Knowledge of the ineligible disposition status is based on the following:
 - An education effort or tobacco investigation at the business site.
 - A phone survey in which enforcement staff directly confirm the disposition status of a vendor from an owner or employee of the business.

3. If an area frame is used, describe how area sampling units are defined and formed.

n/a

a. Is any area left out in the formation of the area frame? Yes No

If Yes, what percentage of the State's population is not covered by the area frame?
 _____%

4. Federal regulation requires that vending machines be inspected as part of the Synar survey. Are vending machines included in the Synar survey? Yes No

If No, please indicate the reason they are not included in the Synar survey.

- State law bans vending machines
- State law bans vending machines from locations accessible to youth
- State has SAMHSA approval to exempt vending machines from the survey
- Other *(Please describe.)* _____

5. Which category below best describes the sample design? *(Check only one.)*

Census *(STOP HERE: Appendix B is complete.)*

Unstratified State-wide sample:

- Simple random sample *(Go to Question 9.)*
- Systematic random sample *(Go to Question 6.)*
- Single-stage cluster sample *(Go to Question 8.)*
- Multi-stage cluster sample *(Go to Question 8.)*

Stratified sample:

- Simple random sample *(Go to Question 7.)*
- Systematic random sample *(Go to Question 6.)*
- Single-stage cluster sample *(Go to Question 7.)*
- Multi-stage cluster sample *(Go to Question 7.)*

- Other** (Please describe and go to *Question 9.*) Alaska uses a random sample design with optimal allocation. The SSES Sample Size Calculator is used with differential costs defined in 7(a) and is updated annually by a statistician based on strata-specific retailer violation rates from previous year of the survey.

6. Describe the systematic sampling methods. (After completing *Question 6*, go to *Question 7* if stratification is used. Otherwise go to *Question 9.*)

7. Provide the following information about stratification.

a. Provide a full description of the strata that are created.

Alaska's stratification scheme includes six strata. Strata definitions are based on the following factors:

- US 2000 census area boundaries
- Alaska Department of Labor economic regions
- Geographic regions
- Endorsement count
- Population size (youth and total)

The six strata are:

- (1) Anchorage Borough Census Area
- (2) Fairbanks North Star Borough Census Area
- (3) Mat-Su Borough Census Area
- (4) Rural / Remote Census Areas
 - North Slope Borough Census Area
 - Northwest Arctic Borough Census Area
 - Nome Census Area
 - Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area
 - Denali Borough Census Area
 - Southeast Fairbanks Census Area
 - Wade Hampton Census Area
 - Bethel Census Area
 - Dillingham Census Area
 - Bristol Bay Borough Census Area
 - Lake and Peninsula Borough Census Area
 - Aleutians East Borough Census Area
 - Aleutians West Census Area
- (5) Gulf Coast Census Areas
 - Kodiak Island Borough Census Area
 - Kenai Peninsula Borough Census Area

- Valdez-Cordova Census Area

(6) Southeast Census Areas

- Yakutat Borough Census Area
- Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area
- Haines Borough Census Area
- Juneau Borough Census Area
- Sitka Borough Census Area
- Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area
- Ketchikan Gateway Borough Census Area
- Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area

Alaska uses the optimal allocation sampling methodology due to the significant variation in sampling costs across the six strata. Estimated sampling costs will be updated annually prior to generating a Synar sample.

Sampling costs specific to FFY10 Synar investigations follow in the table below:

Stratum ID	Stratum Description	Representative Cost (\$) per Investigation
1	Anchorage census area	37
2	Fairbanks North Star census area	89
3	Mat-Su census area	51
4	Rural/Remote census areas	654
5	Gulf Coast census areas	287
6	Southeast census areas	392

b. Is clustering used within the stratified sample?

- Yes** (Go to Question 8.)
- No** (Go to Question 9.)

8. Provide the following information about clustering.

- a. Provide a full description of how clusters are formed. (If multi-stage clusters are used, give definitions of clusters at each stage.)**

- b. Specify the sampling method (simple random, systematic, or probability proportional to size sampling) for each stage of sampling and describe how the method(s) is (are) implemented.**

9. Provide the formulae for determining the effective, target, and original outlet sample sizes.

The SSES Sample Size Calculator is used to determine the minimum adequate sample size.

For FFY10 Synar investigations, Alaska was not able to rely on inputs from the prior year (i.e. design effect, accuracy rate, completion rate and RVR) because of the change to sampling design and frame updates. Consequently, Alaska used very conservative estimates to calculate the FFY2010 sample size (i.e., design effect = 2, accuracy rate of 75%, completion rate of 60%, and RVR of 15%). In future years, Alaska intends to use the previous year's RVR, design effect, completion and accuracy rates as inputs for the SSES Sample Size Calculator.

Below is the formula for calculating a sample size using a 1-tail Student's *t* statistic:

Effective sample size:

$$n_e = \frac{1}{\left(\frac{(s.e.)^2}{P(1-P)} + \frac{1}{N} \right)}$$

where *P* is the previous year's RVR

s.e is the standard error of the estimate for 3% margin of error for one-sided confidence interval

N is the total number of outlets in the sampling frame.

The target sample size (*n_t*) is the same as the effective sample size time the design effect from the previous year's survey.

The original sample size is determined by:

$$n_o = (1 + s) \frac{n_t}{r_l r_c}$$

where *s* is a safety margin, *r_l* is the expected eligibility rate, and *r_c* is the expected completion rate.

APPENDIX C: SYNAR SURVEY INSPECTION PROTOCOL

State: Alaska

FFY: 2010

Note: Upload to WebBGAS a copy of the Synar inspection form under the heading "Synar Inspection Form" and a copy of the protocol used to train inspection teams on conducting and reporting the results of the Synar inspections under the heading "Synar Inspection Protocol."

1. How does the State Synar survey protocol address the following?

a. Consummated buy attempts?

- Required Not Permitted
 Permitted under specified circumstances Not specified in protocol

b. Youth inspectors to carry ID?

- Required Not Permitted
 Permitted under specified circumstances Not specified in protocol

c. Adult inspectors to enter the outlet?

- Required Not Permitted
 Permitted under specified circumstances Not specified in protocol

d. Youth inspectors to be compensated?

- Required Not Permitted
 Permitted under specified circumstances Not specified in protocol

2. Identify the agency(ies) or entity(ies) that actually conduct the random, unannounced Synar inspections of tobacco outlets. (Check all that apply.)

- Law enforcement agency(ies)
 State or local government agency(ies) other than law enforcement
 Private contractor(s)
 Other

List the agency name(s): H&SS Division of Public Health (DPH) and Division of Behavioral Health (DBH)

3. Are Synar inspections combined with law enforcement efforts (i.e., do law enforcement issue warnings or citations to retailers found in violation of the law at the time of the inspection)?

- Always Usually Sometimes Rarely Never

4. Describe the methods used to recruit, select, and train youth inspectors and adult supervisors.

Student interns are recruited through local law enforcement and public health employees and school intern programs. They are not chosen solely on their enthusiasm or dedication to the program or upon their capability to purchase tobacco. The physical appearance of their age to everyday people is a major factor regarding whether they are hired. They should look their age. They are instructed on the manner of dress, make-up and accessories worn during survey activities. The protocol for investigators includes requirements for shaving (males should have clean shaven faces). Investigators having consistently high buy-rates for a particular community are carefully re-evaluated to insure that they do not look older than 18 years of age.

The protocol covers training requirements for the student interns. It includes how to act, what to say, and how to respond to a variety of questions. Student interns are given the opportunity to practice the protocol in role-play exercises. When possible, provision is made for them to watch, or participate with, another student intern attempting a tobacco purchase as part of an actual investigation prior to working alone. Student interns are told never to entice an employee to sell through word or action. Student interns must answer truthfully if asked their age and must produce an ID if requested. Student interns are advised that they do not have to attempt a purchase if they know someone else in the business (they may, if they choose to do so), and they must NOT attempt a purchase from an employee whom they know. Student interns are trained to know they can always decline to go into a business or to leave a business if they feel uncomfortable or for any other reason.

5. Are there specific legal or procedural requirements instituted by the State to address the issue of youth inspectors' immunity when conducting inspections?

a. Legal Yes No (If Yes, please describe.)

b. Procedural Yes No (If Yes, please describe.)

Student Interns are instructed to cooperate when challenged by Retail Store Employees. An adult investigator is in close proximity to supervise the buy attempt and to account for the tobacco products

6. Are there specific legal or procedural requirements instituted by the State to address the issue of the safety of youth inspectors during all aspects of the Synar inspection process?

a. Legal Yes No (If Yes, please describe.)

b. Procedural Yes No (If Yes, please describe.)

All investigators are trained to interrupt an operation rather than put student intern at risk or in a situation when he/she is inadequately monitored. Student Interns are trained to know they can leave a business or refuse to enter if they feel unsafe or uncomfortable. Investigation activity is coordinated with local law enforcement to increase awareness of potential problems.

7. Are there any other legal or procedural requirements the State has regarding how inspections are to be conducted (e.g., age of youth inspector, time of inspections, training that must occur)?

a. Legal Yes No *(If Yes, please describe.)*

b. Procedural Yes No *(If Yes, please describe.)*

Alaska protocol allows for the enlistment of 15 through 18 year-old student interns. Alaska law prohibits the sale of tobacco to persons less than 19 years of age, so including 18 year old student interns is satisfactory protocol for both enforcement and Synar survey objectives.

APPENDIX D: LIST SAMPLING FRAME COVERAGE STUDY

(LIST FRAME ONLY)

State: Alaska
 FFY: 2009

1. Calendar year of the coverage study: 2008

2. Percent coverage found: 98%

(Provide calculation of the percent coverage.)

The *Guide for a Synar Sampling Frame Coverage Study* indicates that the coverage rate “is calculated as the ratio of the total number (b) of matched outlets on the frame divided by the total number (n) of outlets found by the coverage survey (i.e., coverage rate = 100 x b/n).”

Alaska’s coverage rate thus figures at 98% (100 x 63/64).

3. Provide a description of the coverage study methods and results.

The Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing maintains a master list of valid tobacco licenses/endorsements. Alaska utilizes this list of tobacco licenses/endorsements as the list frame for the Synar survey. As such, the same list was validated in the coverage study.

For the purposes of the coverage study, strata included:

Strata / #	Count of Communities	# of Tobacco Vendors	Total # of Vendors in Strata	% of All Vendors by Strata
Urban (1)	5	>= 50	685	47.3%
Rural A (2)	33	9 to 49	598	41.3%
Rural B (3)	48	<=8	164	11.3%
Totals			1,447	100.0%

Because it would be impractical and costly to access the strata 3 communities -- which typically are small villages not on the Alaska road system -- these communities were not included in the coverage study. For each of the strata 1 and 2 communities above, tobacco enforcement staff identified 16 areas where they might expect to find 20 to 25 tobacco outlets. Of these, three areas in strata 1 (Anchorage) and 4 areas in strata 2 (Juneau, Sitka, Kodiak and Nome) were randomly selected for canvassing. Canvassing began in February and was completed in early March 2008.

Alaska anticipated finding 140 to 175 tobacco vendors in the seven coverage study areas. However, only 64 tobacco vendors were identified. Given the small number of vendors identified in the canvas, Alaska requested that SAMSHA review preliminary coverage study results and confirm that the sample size was sufficient for the purposes of the study. In an e-mail dated March 21, 2008, Susan Marsiglia, National Synar Program Coordinator at CSAP,

indicated that the sample of 64 outlets was of sufficient size for the 2008 coverage study. As indicated in Appendix D, question 2 above, a coverage rate of 98% was associated with these vendors,

In her 3/21/08 e-mail, Ms. Marsiglia offered several suggestions to improve future coverage studies, including:

- Ensure an adequate sample size by either redefining areas to be sampled or canvassing a greater number of areas.
- Conduct the coverage study at a different time of the year (rather than February and March) so that certain areas would not be excluded from the study.

Alaska agrees with these suggestions. We anticipates that by incorporating them into the design of the next coverage study – scheduled for calendar year 2011 -- the study will more accurately reflect the coverage rate of the list frame.